

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action identified above, and is further responsive in any other manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 and 28-36 were pending, under consideration and subject to examination in the Office Action. Appropriate claims have been amended, canceled and/or added (without prejudice or disclaimer) in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. Such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply cancellation of disputed claims (without prejudice or disclaimer) to obtain a patent (without prejudice or disclaimer) on ones of the allowable claims as quickly as possible. The disputed claims may be pursued within a continuing application. At entry of this paper, Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 28-33, 35 and 36 will be pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

REWRITTEN ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Claims 2, 6, 9 and 34 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten as indicated within the section number "9" on page 9 of the Office Action. The limitations of Claims 2, 6 and 34 have now been incorporated into independent Claims 1, 5 and 33, to thus rewrite such independent claims into allowable form. Due to incorporation into the independent claims, Claims 2, 6 and 34 have been cancelled (without prejudice or disclaimer). Reconsideration and renewal of the allowance are respectfully requested. Applicant and the undersigned respectfully thank the Examiner for such indication of allowable subject matter.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS DUE TO DEPENDENCY

All other remaining Claims 3-4, 7-10, 28-32 and 35-36 depend from the allowable independent Claims 1, 5 and 33, and owing to dependency from allowable claims, such claims should likewise be allowable over the prior art of record, and any prior art rejections regarding such claims have become obsolete at this time. Accordingly, reconsideration and express written allowance of such claims are respectfully requested.

35 USC §§102 AND 103 REJECTIONS - OBSOLETE VIA CLAIM AMENDMENT

All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed, but the present amendment of such claims (without prejudice or disclaimer) to obtain a patent (without prejudice or disclaimer) on ones of the allowable claims as quickly as possible, has rendered such rejection(s) obsolete, and thus gratuitous traversal arguments concerning the rejection(s) are omitted for brevity. Further discussions/arguments concerning such rejection(s) are left for the future if/when appropriate. Based upon the following, reconsideration and withdrawal of such rejection(s) are respectfully requested.

The above statements, or any present amendment of claims (without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that the rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter, but is merely use of a procedural approach to obtain a patent (without prejudice or disclaimer) on ones of the allowable claims as quickly as possible.

ALL CLAIMS IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the fact that all claims appear allowable in view of incorporation of the allowable Claim 2, 6 and 34 limitations into the independent claims, it is respectfully submitted that all presently pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance with respect to the present application is respectfully requested.

EXTENSIVE PROSECUTION NOTED

Applicant and the undersigned respectfully note the extensive prosecution which has been conducted to date with the present application, and thus Applicant and the undersigned would gratefully appreciate any considerations or guidance from the Examiner to help move the present application quickly to allowance.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Further, Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, *i.e.*, Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

A Petition for an appropriate extension of the period for response to the 16 November 2004 Office Action is submitted concurrently herewith. To whatever other extent is actually necessary, Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Form PTO-2038 authorizing payment of the requisite Petition fee also is submitted herewith. Please charge any actual deficiency to ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (503.39864X00).

Respectfully submitted,



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Concurrent Submissions:
Petition for Extension of Time
PTO-2038 (Fee Code 1251)